



Victoria Police Department – Quarterly Report – October to December 2014

Organizational Highlights

VicPD is in the final stages of a new strategic planning process that will guide the department for the next five years. The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board and the department will hold community consultations on the draft plan before its scheduled completion in the spring of 2015.

VicPD staff finalized the organizational changes to facilitate the full implementation of the Victoria/Esquimalt framework agreement for January 1, 2015. The VicPD Senior Command Team, working with the City of Victoria and Township of Esquimalt, also established clear performance metrics as per the new framework agreement.

VicPD is conducting a number of operational reviews to ensure the best possible deployment of resources. Staffing and roles within the VicPD 911 Communications Centre, the K-9 Section, and the Focused Enforcement Team are being assessed to optimize efficiency. VicPD is also undertaking a comprehensive review of our current and potential participation in integrated units to ensure that the needs of our citizens are being met while supporting cooperative efforts to address regional issues.

In addition, to address the additional workload demands and complexity of domestic violence investigations, four new investigators will be assigned to the Patrol Division effective March 2015. These investigators are being redeployed from existing resources as part of an organizational realignment.

The VicPD community and business survey initiative has seen an excellent response rate and the results were presented to both Victoria and Esquimalt councils at the Joint Board/Councils meeting in the fall of 2014. Interactive community events for the release of the VicPD Business Survey results are being planned for both Victoria and Esquimalt locations in early 2015.

VicPD launched a new public website (www.vicpd.ca) on November 12, 2014. The site, whose theme is “Working together to ensure healthy communities,” offers a range of options by which citizens can interact with VicPD, learn more about the department’s activities, and report community concerns or issues.

A comprehensive evaluation of the Information Technology function within VicPD was completed on October 21, 2014. VicPD’s Senior Command Team and IT section are now implementing the report’s recommendations to ensure IT resources are being used effectively and efficiently. VicPD and City of Victoria staff continue to work in partnership to co-locate IT servers in one location (VicPD HQ) which will reduce the overall costs for the two IT sections.

Operational Successes

Through the daily application of intelligence-led policing practices and sustained community engagement, VicPD experienced a number of operational successes. Examples include:

October 14, 2014 - A lone VicPD K9 officer is responsible for the arrest of three individuals in a stolen vehicle while seizing weapons and solving a recent mischief.

October 15, 2014 - VicPD's online crime reporting system sees large increase in use by the community this year, allowing VicPD to free up hundreds of hours of officer and call-taker time while giving citizens a quick and efficient means to report crime.

November 18th 2014 - VicPD recognizes citizen with Civic Service Award for assisting an off-duty VicPD sergeant with apprehending a combative thief.

November 20, 2014 - VicPD's Cst. Brendon LeBlanc is awarded the 2013 Traffic Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Committee for his outstanding work combatting impaired and prohibited driving.

November 21st, 2014 - VicPD's Analysis and Intelligence Section is credited for identifying and apprehending a bank robber.

December 10, 2014 - VicPD's Crime Reduction Unit arrests a well-known property thief and his accomplice, both recently arrested for destroying and stealing parking meters.

Financial Update

The department incurred a surplus of approximately \$387,000 (0.8%) for fiscal year 2014. A significant portion of the surplus was due to a reduction in overtime.

The five-year average for overtime (2009-2013) is \$1,965,548. In 2014, the department spent \$1,808,986 in overtime, resulting in a surplus of \$183,556.

This amount does not include overtime incurred on Canada Day (\$139,950). Costs for Canada Day are charged to "special events" and a significant portion of the overtime surplus was used to offset the cost of overtime for Canada Day. Canada Day overtime costs have risen since 2010 yet there has been no budget increase. The average cost to provide police services for Canada Day prior to 2011 was \$46,571. The three year average from 2011 to 2013 was \$164,461.

Future Priorities

VicPD staff will continue to work with City of Victoria staff to streamline the enforcement of bylaws, including the issue of camping in public parks.

The department will also continue its comprehensive community engagement efforts, especially as the new strategic plan is being developed.

Intelligence-led policing will remain an operational priority for the department and recent improvements in IT service delivery should facilitate the cost-effective application of technology to enhance operations.